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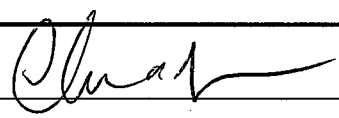
THE ENDURING COSTS OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION


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Preface

This paper is the result of my interest in the issues associated with illegal immigration. My job with Diplomatic Security Service includes conducting criminal investigations pertaining to visa and passport fraud, by which I am constantly dealing with illegal immigrants. Although my job of arresting immigrants for the past ten years has produced a bit of bias, I have attempted to take a more even-handed approach in this paper at looking at the illegal immigration problem. Many Americans would agree illegal immigration is a problem. As a law enforcement officer charged with upholding the laws of the land I have no problems with immigrants that come to the United States so long as they do it legally. The United States is no exception when it comes to illegal immigration; one only has to take a look at the same problems Europe is having with illegal immigration. With this paper I hope to reveal a maturity in my thoughts on and approach to the subject of illegal immigration. I would also like to express my sincere gratitude for the mentorship that Dr. Christopher Jasparro has provided me. Last, but not least, I want to thank my loving wife for her support in my endeavor to write this paper.

Executive Summary

Title: The Enduring Costs of Illegal Immigration

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Thesis: Because illegal immigration is such a big issue of concern, the question of how does illegal immigration impact the United States is addressed.

Discussion: Since 9/11, illegal immigration has become a topic of concern pertaining to homeland security. With the estimated 11.5 million illegal immigrants in the United States, the extent to which that affects the United States is discussed, as well as what the future holds for the United States in terms of the number of illegal immigrants to come. Illegal immigrants have raised an alarm in terms of the number of births by illegal immigrant mothers in the U.S. Related to these births is the discussion of the associated monetary and social service costs, as well as the ramifications for the births of these children as they relate to the immigrant status of their families. In the past, amnesties for illegal immigrants have made the United States home for 2.7 to 3.7 million immigrants. Discussed is also the consequence of implementing another amnesty program as it relates to the influx of illegal immigrants based on historical precedence. Illegal immigrants, for the most part, come to America seeking better employment opportunities, however, discussed are the significance of employment of illegal immigrants and what it means to the U.S. labor force in terms of wages and jobs. Although crime is always a concern when they are committed, illegal immigrants add another dimension to the equation. Discussed are some of the facets of crime committed by illegal immigrants to include the disproportion and costs associated with incarceration. Although these are not all the issues concerned with illegal immigration, additional costs are touched upon to include costs of education and medical care. These costs are usually directly incurred by the states. Discussed are the financial losses of certain states due to educational costs of illegal immigrant children or children of illegal immigrant families as well as the medical expenses to treat illegal immigrant patients that are absorbed by these states.

Conclusion: The issues of illegal immigrants in the United States, anchor babies, amnesty, employment, crime, and costs were addressed in the paper. Moreover, it is my opinion, too little is being done to combat illegal immigration. I finally concluded by offering some effective ideas to better curb the illegal immigrant dilemma in the United States.

Since the attacks of September 11, 2001, the issue of border security has come to the forefront of American citizens concerns. With the attacks came the realization that tens of millions of undocumented immigrants are living within the borders of the United States while hundreds of thousands illegally cross U.S. borders annually. Many Americans see the influx of illegal immigrants into the United States as a threat to the current security situation of America. This threat was exemplified in the spring of 2007 when three brothers were charged with an alleged Fort Dix terror plot in New Jersey. These three brothers (Dritan, Shain, and Eljvir Duka) had been living in the United States illegally for more then 23 years at the time they were charged. Indications are that they had crossed the border illegally at Brownsville, Texas sometime in 1984.¹

This paper will try to answer the question of how does illegal immigration impact the United States? In order to better answer this question of illegal immigration and its affects within the borders of the United States, I will present a study of some of the issues associated with illegal immigration. Of the several issues pertaining to illegal immigration, I will focus on six areas of interest: extent of illegal immigration, anchor babies, amnesty, employment, crime and costs.

The first issue I will focus on is that of the extent of illegal immigration. Of the total population in the United States, nearly 38 million are immigrants (based on census bureau figures).² Of the current estimate 38 million, nearly 11 to 13 million are here in the U.S. illegally (the former a 2007 Census Bureau figure³, the latter a 2007 estimate by The Federation for American Immigration Reform⁴). Conservatively, the Department of Homeland Security puts the number of illegal immigrants at 11.6 million, which is derived from Pew Hispanic Center information.⁵

Secondly, I will focus on the effects, on things such as tax burdens and social programs, of children born in the United States of illegal immigrant mothers or better known as 'anchor babies'. Because of certain loopholes within our Constitutional Amendments, once a child of an illegal alien family is born here in America the family is legalized because by birth that child is a U.S. citizen.

The effects of amnesty programs will be the focus of my third issue. Amnesty for illegal aliens is nothing new. Since 1984, illegal immigrants have been granted amnesty on seven separate occasions. An amnesty program, or the mere hints of another amnesty, actually creates an environment that compounds the number of illegal aliens already here in the U.S. As in the past, when amnesty is spoken of, illegal immigrants crossing the border balloons so that they can be on time to make it under an amnesty umbrella.

Fourthly, employment will be the issue I focus on. Employment of illegal immigrants affects legal immigrants and national low-wage earners alike, compromising their work-related advantages and undermining their job security, particularly when unemployment is high. Probably the biggest concern for many Americans is employers who circumvent rules and regulations when hiring illegal immigrants. "By choosing to hire Illegal Aliens", illegal employers "avoid paying minimum wage, payroll taxes, worker's compensation insurance, overtime and other legally mandated employee benefits, these Illegal Employers profit at the expense of taxpayers and honest Business owners. The Illegal Employers contribute to the massive influx of Illegal Aliens into our country. Illegal Employers force those who do pay taxes to also pay for the health care, education and welfare of the Illegal aliens they hire."⁶

Crimes committed by illegal immigrants will be the fifth issue of my focus. The number of incarcerated illegal immigrants is disproportionate compared to the total number inmates in

either our federal, state, or local facilities. American taxpayers are paying well over a billion dollars⁷ annually for the imprisonment of hundreds of thousands of immigrants who, in the first place, entered the United States illegally.

Sixth and lastly, any other issues associated with costs incurred by American taxpayers will be my focus. These costs include such government services such as Medicaid, medical treatment for the uninsured, food assistance programs, and federal aid to schools. Illegal immigrants create a net fiscal deficit of tens of billions of dollars in taxpayer's money annually.

EXTENT OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

The Current Population Survey (CPS) figures compiled by the U.S. Census Bureau between 1995 and 2007 shows that between 1995 and 2000 the immigrant population (both legal and illegal) grew 5.7 million, an increase of approximately 1.1 million each year.⁸ During the period between 2000 and 2007, this same population grew by another 7.3 million, or an increase of 1.04 million per year. Of significant note – between 2006 and 2007 the legal and illegal population grew by 1.6 million, approximately half a million more for the year on top of the 1.04 million yearly average. The Pew Hispanic Center assumes a 5.2 percent undercount of the total immigrant population in the 2005 CPS.⁹

The 2000 Current Population Survey estimates that 8.9 million legal and illegal immigrants came to the United States between 1990 and 2000.¹⁰ Over the next seven-year period (2000 to 2007), 10.3 million more immigrants came to the U.S. or an average of 1.47 million per year.¹¹ “The last seven years match or exceed any seven-year period of immigration in American history.”¹² During the advent of modern America of the early 20th century (1920 to 1930), the immigrant population grew by 16.6 million or 1.66 million a year on average.¹³ The

1.66 million average does exceed the 1.47 million of today, but that was during a period of time when the U.S. government encouraged and promoted immigration to fill the jobs required during the industrial expansion.

The following illegal immigrant specific population estimates are consistent figures compiled (using socio-demographic characteristics) by the Census Bureau, former Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) (2000 estimate of seven million illegal immigrants with an estimated 500,000 annual increase¹⁴), Pew Hispanic Center (2006 estimate of 11.5 - 12 million illegal immigrants¹⁵), the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and the Urban Institute (2002 estimate of 8.3 million based on the 2000 CPS¹⁶). The CPS conducted in 2007 estimates that there are somewhere between 11 and 11.5 million illegal immigrants currently in the United States.¹⁷ The estimated the number of illegal immigrants in the U.S. in the 2000 was 7.3 million.¹⁸ Therefore, from 2000 to 2007, the illegal immigrant population grew by four million. Again, during this same seven-year period (2000-2007) the total of all legal and illegal immigrant population grew 7.3 million. Thus, illegal immigrants account for more than one-half of the total immigrant population growth within the United States.¹⁹

Other indications of illegal immigration flow into the United States can be found in the “no match” statistics of W-2 forms compiled by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). “No matches” are W-2 forms received in which the social security number does not match that of the employee’s name.²⁰

7.9 million W-2s with “no matches” were received by the IRS in 2004 from employers. Most of these W-2s were from states with large immigrant populations. This leads most experts to believe that the majority of errant W-2 forms were those of illegal employees. By contrast, the Social Security Administration (SSA) received 9.5 million “no match” W-2s in 2005.²¹

These numbers do not indicate the true number of illegals who are employed in the United States. The fact of the matter is that numerous other illegal immigrants work for non-reported income. Based on the 9.5 million "no matches" produced by the Social Security Administration in 2005 it is reasonable to assume that the remaining 1.5 and two million (remember the 11 to 11.5 million total illegal immigrant estimation) other illegal immigrants are either unemployed or have an employee-employer relationship that does not file with either IRS or SSA.

Other statistics from the Census Bureau indicate that approximately one in three immigrants is currently an illegal. Nearly one-half of all Central American and Mexican immigrants are here illegally, while nearly one-third of the South American immigration population is illegal as well. Of the 10.3 million immigrants that have crossed into the United States since 2000 an estimated 5.6 million of these are illegal aliens.²²

To put things further into perspective, according to the 2007 Current Population Survey a record level of 37.9 million legal and illegal immigrants reside in the United States. Of the total population of the U.S., all immigrants account for one in eight residents. By contrast, immigrants accounted for one in 13 in 1990, one in 16 in 1980, and one in 21 in 1970. The current one in eight figure is the highest it has been in over 80 years.²³ As for immigrant population of the early 20th century, we need to keep in mind this was during a great period of industrial expansion for the United States, a time more workers were needed, and our nation's government promoted immigration. In 1920, the U.S. population exceeded the 100 million mark with a Census Bureau estimate of 106,021,537. By 1930, the total estimated population was 123,202,624.²⁴ For the decade between 1920 and 1930, the estimate for the number of

immigrants that arrived was around 16.6 million.²⁵ That would mean that immigrants accounted for 13.5 percent, or one in seven of the total population by 1930.

Currently, of all the immigrant population in the United States, the states of California, New York, Florida, Texas, New Jersey, Illinois, Georgia, Massachusetts, Arizona, Virginia, Maryland, Washington, and North Carolina have the most significant immigrant populations. According to the 2007 CPS, California, has an estimated immigrant population of 9.98 million, which accounts for 27.6 percent of its total population.²⁶ Washington State has an estimated immigrant population of 722,000 or 11.4 percent of its total population the rest of the mentioned states fall in between the two with Virginia's total immigrant population for 2007 at around 856,000 or 11.4 percent of the total population.²⁷

ANCHOR BABIES

Anchor babies are babies born to illegal immigrants in the United States. Under the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution, citizenship is granted to "all persons born or naturalized in the United States and subject to the jurisdiction thereof."²⁸ Under court interpretations of the law, not only do these babies automatically become United States citizens, they also immediately qualify for a variety of federal, state, and local welfare and public-assistance benefits paid by American taxpayers, to include Medicaid.

Current estimates indicate that approximately 300,000 anchor babies are currently born in the United States each year.²⁹ For example, in Stockton, California, 70 percent of the 2,300 babies born in San Joaquin General Hospital's maternity ward in 2003 were anchor babies.³⁰ Yet, in another location of the United States, in 2000 in the state of Georgia 5,133 anchor babies were born. By 2002, the number more than doubled to 11,180.³¹

Costs to the American taxpayer are significant if you consider there very well may be close to 300,000 new families brought to the United States by anchor babies each year as is demonstrated in this case study:

“Cristobal Silverio emigrated illegally from Mexico to Stockton, Calif., in 1997 to work as a fruit picker. He brought with him his wife, Felipa, and three children, 19, 12 and 8 – all illegals. When Felipa gave birth to her fourth child, daughter Flor, the family had what is referred to as an "anchor baby" – an American citizen by birth who provided the entire Silverio clan a ticket to remain in the US permanently. But Flor was born premature, spent three months in the neonatal incubator and cost the San Joaquin Hospital more than \$300,000. Meanwhile, oldest daughter Lourdes married an illegal alien gave birth to a daughter, too. Her name is Esmeralda. And Felipa had yet another child, Cristian. The two Silverio anchor babies generate \$1,000 per month in public welfare funding for the family. Flor gets \$600 a month for asthma. Healthy Cristian gets \$400. While the Silverios earned \$18,000 last year picking fruit, they picked up another \$12,000 for their two “anchor babies”.”³²

“In 1994, California paid for 74,987 deliveries to illegal alien mothers, at a total cost of \$215.2 million (an average of \$2,842 per delivery). Illegal alien mothers accounted for 36 percent of all Medi-Cal funded births in California that year.”³³

Once anchor babies are born in the United States, the illegal immigrant mother, father, and additional siblings become legal guardians of the infant. The immediate family subsequently acquires legal immigrant/resident status in the US, thus no longer making them illegal aliens and

subject to deportation back to their country of origin. What's more, "when anchor babies turn twenty-one years of age, they become eligible to sponsor the immigration of other members of the family."³⁴

As long as illegal immigrants continue to come to the United States to give birth to their anchor babies, local and state governments, with little federal monetary support, will need to continue raising taxes of the American people in order to fund more and more of these births. In addition, as long as Congress does not address the loophole in the Fourteenth Amendment, immigrants will continue to illegally cross the border into the United States in greater numbers and giving birth to their children. As a result, anchor babies will firmly anchor his or her family on American soil legally and immune to deportation.

AMNESTY

In 1986, the United States Congress passed the Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA) giving amnesty to all illegal immigrants at the time. The result was that 2.8 million illegal immigrants were admitted to the United States as legal immigrants. Additionally, some 142,000 dependants of these 2.8 million immigrants have been brought across the borders to live in the United States legally.³⁵

The Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 was initially supposed to be a singular amnesty. However, as laid out below, Congress has passed a total of seven amnesties to date for illegal immigrants:

1. "The Immigration and Reform Control Act (IRCA) Amnesty of 1986 - the "one-time only" blanket amnesty for some 2.8 million illegal aliens.

2. Section 245(i) The Amnesty of 1994 - a temporary rolling amnesty for 578,000 illegal aliens.
3. Section 245(i) The Extension Amnesty of 1997 - an extension of the rolling amnesty created in 1994.
4. The Nicaraguan Adjustment and Central American Relief Act (NACARA) Amnesty of 1997 - an amnesty for nearly one million illegal aliens from Central America.
5. The Haitian Refugee Immigration Fairness Act Amnesty (HRIFA) of 1998 - an amnesty for 125,000 illegal aliens from Haiti.
6. The Late Amnesty of 2000 - an amnesty for approximately 400,000 illegal aliens who claimed they should have been amnestied under the 1986 IRCA amnesty.
7. The LIFE Act Amnesty of 2000 - a reinstatement of the rolling Section 245(i) amnesty to an estimated 900,000 illegal aliens.”³⁶

To date based on the various amnesties; nearly 2.7 to 3.7 million have been granted legal immigrant status in the United States.³⁷

An INS report released to Congress drew attention to the profound consequences of illegal immigrant amnesties. In it, the INS clearly stated that the illegal immigration problem was not solved by amnesties. Instead, amnesties encourage opportunistic surges of illegal immigration into the United States.³⁸ In 2004, when President Bush proposed an amnesty for the current crop of illegal immigrants in the United States, an increase of “15 to 25 percent” of additional illegal aliens crossed into the United States in hopes that yet another amnesty would be enacted.³⁹

In terms of costs, on July 18, 2006, in a House Hearing on Amnesty Provisions of the Reid-Kennedy Bill, Steven A. Camarota, Director of Research Center for Immigration Studies, stated: “A Center for Immigration Studies report found that in just the first ten years after IRCA passed, the difference between the taxes the legalized illegals paid and the costs they created was a negative \$79 billion borne by American taxpayers.”⁴⁰ With the estimate of 3.4 million illegal immigrants that were granted legalization from previous amnesties, the average cost per

legalized immigrant was a negative sum of approximately \$23,250 of taxpayer's money. Continually granting illegal immigrants' amnesty for breaking the law is not a solution. Amnesties encourage an influx in illegal immigration rather than curbing it. The added costs created by amnesties are unacceptable.

Based on a conservative 2006 estimate by the Department of Homeland Security of at least 11.6 million⁴¹ illegal immigrants currently residing within the borders of the United States, many Americans feel it would be wrong for these illegal immigrants to receive the benefit of becoming legal residents through another amnesty program. American taxpayers are also concerned about the billions of spent dollars associated with legalizing another 11.6 million immigrants on top of the 3.4 million from previous amnesties. If you consider the negative costs of \$23,250 associated with previously legalized immigrants and multiply that with 11.6 million that would equal another negative tax sum of \$269.7 billion.

"Continually granting amnesty to illegal aliens sends the wrong signal – it teaches immigrants that U.S. laws don't mean anything and that it's okay to break laws you don't agree with. Suddenly giving legal status to illegal migrants is essentially offering a reward for breaking the law. It is also a slap in the face to legal migrants, those how play by the rules, wait in line, and go through the necessary legal hoops."⁴² Legal immigrants too have issue with another amnesty program. In a statement on the legalimmigrantsfirst.org website, legal immigrants are concerned that "...any type of amnesty for illegal aliens would increase the current discrimination against legal immigrants. " Earned legalization does not send illegal aliens to the back of the immigration line. Earned legalization would instead add the \$4400 Earned Income Credit and in-state college tuition to the benefits illegal aliens already receive ahead of legal immigrants."⁴³

EMPLOYMENT

Between 2000 and 2005, approximately 4.1 million immigrant workers came to the United States. Between 1.4 and 2.7 million illegal aliens are estimated to make up the 4.1 million.⁴⁴ During this same period, U.S. born men (16-34) who were employed declined by 1.7 million while the number of new male immigrant workers of the same age group increased 1.9 million.⁴⁵ The increase of new immigrant hire has also affected the employer-employee relationships and the structure of labor markets. In other words, fewer private sector workers are being included on formal payrolls, which is translating into fewer insured workers in terms of health and unemployment insurance as well as other protections.⁴⁶

In essence, the vast majority of illegal immigrants come to the United States knowing that employment opportunities exist. However, many U.S. born citizens are losing there jobs because more and more employers in the private sector are finding the prospects of hiring immigrant workers much more profitable. For example, the employers save money, or rather pocket more money, by paying illegal workers less then what would be paid to documented workers performing the same job. That said, not enough statistical information exists to determine exactly how many Americans are being displaced by an illegal workforce. "We can't run econometric models. The numbers aren't good enough," says David Wyss, chief economist at Standard & Poor's in New York.⁴⁷ However, Dr. Donald Huddle, an economist at Rice University was able to device a study. According to his study in 1993 of the costs of illegal immigration, illegal aliens were conservatively displacing [not replacing] approximately 25% of the American workers every year, at a cost of about \$4.3 billion a year, and the supply of cheap labor depresses the wages and working conditions of the working poor.⁴⁸ The cost of \$4.3

billion also takes into account \$10 billion in revenue from illegal immigrants.⁴⁹ When asked, “Do undocumented workers take away jobs from Americans?” Anthony Chan, chief economist at JPMorgan Private Client Services in Columbus, Ohio responds: “My best guess is that they take some jobs away. Some Americans are willing to work at those jobs at low salaries...”⁵⁰

The Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 does include provisions to impose sanctions on employers who knowingly hire illegal aliens. However, these sanctions are never fully enforced however.⁵¹ The federal government has not fully prosecuted employers who unlawfully hire illegal immigrants. According to Spencer S. Hsu and Kari Lydersen of the Washington Post - in 1999, the number of prosecutions of law breaking employers was 182.⁵² Yet, in 2003 (two years after the 9/11 attacks) the government prosecuted a mere four employers for illegal hiring practices.⁵³

One case study of a successful prosecution of an employer of illegal immigrants occurred on Labor Day weekend 2006 in Stillmore, Georgia:

Before the late 1990s, “the plants processing lines were made up predominantly of African-Americans.”⁵⁴ Starting in the late 1990s, Crider Inc. found that it could hire from a booming Hispanic population at a dollar less per hour than what they were paying the African-Americans. On Labor Day 2006, agents raided Crider Inc., a chicken-processing company, and its 900 Hispanic immigrant workforce. The crackdown netted 75 percent as illegal employees.⁵⁵

Although Crider Inc. was in disarray after losing 75 percent of its workforce it was able to remain operational because of the African-Americans. For the African-Americans “the departure of the Hispanics was a boon.”⁵⁶ Crider Inc.

replaced workers, but this time they were documented workers protected under U.S. labor laws.

Not only was the African-American community reclaiming jobs lost to illegal Hispanic workers, Crider Inc. was able to recruit some 20 Laotian Hmong refugees out of Minnesota as well as contracting Georgia prison inmates. One of the refugees, Moua, is now a recruiter for Crider Inc. and has been hiring Hmong from around the country, including Hmong families out of California.⁵⁷ This is an example of success where the government enforced its labor laws and of how an employer can actually stay in business even after losing three quarters of its underpaid Hispanic employees. The African-Americans got their jobs back, which they held before the Hispanic invasion and Crider Inc. was legitimately able to find others to replace the remaining jobs.

Unfortunately, this is a rare case of success at cracking down on employment of illegal immigrants, although the government did not fine Crider Inc. Not unless federal and state governments step in and enforce labor laws more regularly, the growing illegal worker-employer relationship will continue to grow much as the illegal immigration population continues to flood the United States. "The growing inflow of illegal immigrant workers has contributed to a fundamental breakdown in the nation's labor laws and labor standards as the sheer volume of illegal hiring activity overwhelms what has amounted to meager enforcement levels of basic labor standards across the nation by federal and state officials from both political parties."⁵⁸

CRIME

According to the United States Government Accountability Office (GAO) report release April 7, 2005, in 2004 the number of incarcerated criminal aliens at the federal level was about 49,000. This is up from 42, 000 in 2001. At the state level, 47 states received federal reimbursement for 74,000 incarcerated criminal aliens in 2003. At the local level, 700 local governments received reimbursement for about 147,000 criminal aliens for the same year.⁵⁹ These numbers represents all arrestable offenses perpetrated by illegal immigrants.

In brief, of the 49,000 criminal aliens incarcerated in federal prisons in 2004 the “majority” were identified as citizens of Mexico, which is logical since they make up approximately 58.5 percent of the Latino immigrant population in the United States.⁶⁰ The federal costs of incarcerating these criminal aliens totaled around \$5.8 billion between 2001 and 2004: \$4.2 billion of that was direct costs and \$1.6 billion was reimbursements to state and local governments.⁶¹

At the state level, in 2003, five state prison systems incarcerated about 80 percent of all criminal aliens in all 50 states. They included Arizona, California, Florida, New York, and Texas. It is estimated that four of these five states spent \$1.6 billion in incarceration costs from 2002 to 2003.⁶²

In 2003, local jails incarcerated about 147,000 criminal aliens. Thirty percent of these criminal aliens were incarcerated in Los Angeles County and Orange County, California, New York City, Harris County, Texas, and Maricopa County, Arizona. Within these five county jail facilities, it was determined that 65 percent were Mexican citizens. Four out of five of these counties spent around \$390 million between 2002 and 2003 to incarcerate criminal aliens.⁶³

A month later, May 9, 2005, the Government Accounting Office released a follow-up report concerning “Information on Certain Illegal Aliens Arrested in the United States.”⁶⁴ This

report represented a study the GAO conducted for the period of July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2003 and of a study population of 55,322 incarcerated illegal aliens.

For the one-year period the study population in all 50 states was arrested a total of 459,614 times while committing 691,890 offenses.⁶⁵ Of the different types of offenses, it is worth noting that 45 percent of the study population was arrested for 'drug and immigration offenses' (GAO made no distinction between drug and immigration offenses in their report).⁶⁶ Other major offenses included assault (50,958), burglary (38,689), larceny/theft (31,883), fraud/forgery/counterfeiting (25,773), weapons violations (22,263), vehicle theft (20,950), robbery (15,305), stolen property (13,413), sex offenses (11,833), homicide (5,992), kidnapping (3,236), and arson (457).⁶⁷ Of these, those that were property related offenses accounted for 15 percent of all offenses and those that were violent crime related accounted for 12 percent of all offenses of the study population.⁶⁸

Of the total number of arrests (459,614) within the study populations (55,322 illegal immigrants) an average of eight arrests per illegal immigrant occurred.⁶⁹ Thirty-eight percent of the population had between two and five arrests each, while 32 percent had between six and ten arrests and 26 percent were arrested eleven or more times each.⁷⁰ Within all of the arrests during this one-year study period, 80 percent occurred in the states of California, Texas, and Arizona (incidentally all southwest border states).⁷¹

In 2003 alone, the United States Justice Department (DOJ) "estimated that 270,000 illegal immigrants were incarcerated in jails and prisons" bringing the total to an estimated 630,000 booked illegals.⁷² At the federal level, the Center for Immigrations Studies estimates that the illegal immigrants account for 17 percent of the total inmate population.⁷³ Taking into consideration that the U.S. population stand at approximately 301 million (July 2007 estimate)

and that the conservative estimate of 11 million illegal aliens reside here as well, one would find that the illegal population accounts for just over 3.5 percent of the total population. Therefore, while illegal immigrants make up less than four percent of the population, they account for 17 percent of all prison and jail populations in the United States.⁷⁴ Of the 630,000 illegal immigrants incarcerated, about 77,000 of these were in federal prisons “at an annual cost of \$1.2 billion” in taxpayers money.⁷⁵ The average cost per illegal immigrant inmate in federal, state, and local prisons and jails is \$31,000 annually.⁷⁶

In 2006, Violent Crimes Institute (VCI) conducted a study, in particular, of sex crimes committed by illegal immigrants here in the U.S. The nation-wide study analyzed 1,500 sex crime cases committed by illegal immigrants in 36 states from January 1999 to April 2006. The study was also based on an estimation of a 12 million illegal immigrant population.

When examining Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) reports and public documents, Violent Crimes Institute found that two percent of all sex offenders in the U.S. were illegal immigrants. Based on this conservative percentage, “there are approximately 240,000 illegal immigrant sex offenders in the United States.”⁷⁷ Of the 1,500 sex crime cases analyzed by VCI, there were 5,999 victims. “525 (35%) were child molestations, 358 (24%) were rapes, and 617 (41%) were sexual homicides and serial murders.”⁷⁸ This averaged out to about four victims per offender. Upon completion of its examination, VCI concluded that approximately 960,000 victimizations occurred at the hands of illegal immigrants between January 1999 and April 2006.⁷⁹ It is important to remember that these numbers are not sex crime cases on a whole, but only those committed by immigrants who illegally entered the United States. By comparison, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) currently estimates the total number of sex offenders living in the United States to be around 630,000.⁸⁰

However, insufficient data exists to make a distinction between VCI's estimate of 240,000 illegal immigrant sex offenders and the total overall estimate of 630,000 by NCMEC.

Crimes committed by illegal immigrants could be mitigated if the federal, state, and local governments would only enforce immigration policies already on the books. Below are merely a few poignant reminders of crimes committed by illegal immigrants that could have been avoided.

In October of 2002, in the Washington DC metro area, ten people were killed by sniper fire. One of the two snipers that were eventually apprehended was John Lee Malvo. A year before these heinous crimes were committed, John Lee Malvo entered the United States illegally as a stowaway. A deportable offense, but instead the INS releases him.⁸¹

In 2002, eighteen-year-old Tricia Taylor of Detroit lost both legs above the knees as she was walking when a drunk driver sped over a curb and smashed Tricia into a wall. Jose, Carcamo, an illegal immigrant from El Salvador, perpetrated this crime while drag racing. He also was driving even though he had 17 previous traffic violations since 1995. The unfortunate circumstances involving this case are twice INS had begun deportation proceedings against Carcamo, but never followed through.⁸²

In the summer of 2002, Sister Helen Chaska, on missionary work in Klamath Falls, Oregon, was raped and strangled to death with her own rosary beads. The rapist/murderer, Maximiliano Esparza, was an illegal immigrant from Mexico. In 1988, Esparza was convicted in Los Angeles of kidnapping and robbery for which he served six years. When released on probation in 1992 he should have been legally deported. He never was.⁸³

Christina Long of Greenwich, Connecticut was raped and killed by asphyxiation at the age of thirteen. In 2003, the court convicted her killer, Saul Dos Reis, of manslaughter. Dos Reis, a Brazilian, was in the U.S. illegally having over-stayed his visa by several years.⁸⁴

Six-year-old Annie Cumpston of Baltimore was killed as she and her family were leaving from the circus. Guillermo Diaz, an illegal immigrant from Mexico, struck her on a sidewalk with his vehicle while she was holding her mother's hand. Diaz fled the scene and in doing so injured a witness trying to stop him. When law enforcement finally apprehended Diaz, he did not have a driver's license and the vehicle tags were expired. For four years, Diaz was working illegally for a construction company before he killed Annie.⁸⁵

COSTS

For this section, the study population will be the three states with the highest incurred costs to the American taxpayer due to their respective illegal immigration population. These states include California, New York, and Texas. Although examining these three particular states may present an inflated view, it is nonetheless indicative of the costs created by illegal immigrants that should not be necessary.

In 2004, the illegal population in California was costing the state's taxpayers more than \$10.5 billion per year for education, medical care, and incarceration.⁸⁶ Having covered incarceration costs to a certain extent in the pervious section, the focus here will be on the burdened costs of education and medical care. However, some of the total costs will include those of incarceration when noted. All said, the fiscal burden from education, medical care, and incarceration in terms of California state expenditures amounted to approximately \$1,183 per "native-born" resident in 2004.⁸⁷

The outlay of 2004 costs incurred by California taxpayers for education was \$7.7 billion for illegal immigrants and their children.⁸⁸ For uncompensated medical care these cost were \$1.4 billion⁸⁹ and for incarceration in state and local jails another \$635 million.⁹⁰ Even though 2004

tax receipts of illegal immigrants in California were \$1.7 billion, the net burden was \$8.8 in illegal immigrant expenses.⁹¹

The estimated illegal immigration population for California is around 2.8 million persons accounting for approximately 7.8 percent of California's total population.⁹² The 2004 estimate for California's illegal immigrant public school population (K-12) was somewhere between 445,900 and 545,700 students, or 15 percent of all public school students.⁹³ Again, the estimated cost to educate nearly one-half of a million students was \$7.7 billion in 2004.

The \$1.4 billion in uncompensated medical care expenditures provided in 2004 to illegal immigrants included those alien's who were illegally crossing the border, while trying to get to "interior locations", and those illegal immigrants already residing within the state of California who turn to emergency medical facilities for their treatment.⁹⁴

In 2006, the illegal population in New York was costing the state's taxpayers more than \$5.1 billion a year in education, medical care, and incarceration.⁹⁵ New York's outlay of 2006 incurred costs by taxpayers for education was \$4.3 billion for illegal immigrants and their families.⁹⁶ Unreimbursed funds for medical care provided to illegal immigrants were around \$474 million according to GAO.⁹⁷ For incarceration, New York taxpayers spent another \$125 million.⁹⁸

The estimated number of children of at least one illegal immigrant parent enrolled in New York public schools was around 120,000 students (K-12) for 2006, or 11.7 percent of total student population (36 percent higher than 1993 estimates).⁹⁹ The Pew Hispanic society puts the total illegal immigrant population in the state of New York between 550,000 and 650,000 persons.¹⁰⁰ New York taxpayers pay \$4.3 billion in education expenses for 120,000 students of illegal immigrants. Of added significance, New York has a policy to allow illegal immigrants to

enroll in state universities as state residents. Thus, this qualifies them for in-state tuition. This is an added cost of approximately \$28.8 to \$37.7 million a year in taxpayer's dollars.¹⁰¹

As with California, the estimated 2006 population of 550,000 to 650,000 illegal immigrants residing in New York¹⁰², they tend to use medical services for treatment at a cost of about \$474 million taxpayer dollars a year. For New York, "studies have shown that at the state and local level, immigrants use more in services than they pay in local taxes. Then National Academy of Sciences found that the average immigrant imposes a net lifetime fiscal cost on the state and local governments of \$25,000." – Senator Hillary Clinton Press Release, May 22, 2006.¹⁰³

In 2005, reports estimated that the illegal population in Texas was costing the state's taxpayers more than \$4.7 billion a year in education, medical care, and incarceration.¹⁰⁴ Texas incurred costs for educating illegal immigrants and their families for about \$4 billion dollars in 2005.¹⁰⁵ Taxpayer funded outlays for illegal immigrant health care was around \$265 million¹⁰⁶, while uncompensated incarceration of illegals was another \$130 million.¹⁰⁷ In all, the costs amount to about \$725 per Texas household headed by a native-born resident.¹⁰⁸

The estimate for Texas of the number of illegal immigrants and their children that were enrolled in public schools was around 315,000 students (K-12) for 2004, or 11.9 percent of total student population.¹⁰⁹ In 2004, the total illegal immigrant population in the state of Texas stood around 1.4 million of the total population.¹¹⁰ Right around \$4 billion tax dollars paid for the education of 315,000 illegal immigrants and U.S.-born children of illegals.¹¹¹

1.4 million undocumented immigrants tended to use emergency medical services at a cost of \$265 million out of the pockets of taxpayers. "Over the past 10 years, the [Harris county

hospital] district has provided \$510 million in unreimbursed care to illegal immigrants, the district says.” – The Houston Chronicle, March 1, 2005.¹¹²

All being said of the tax burdens placed on the American taxpayer by illegal immigrants, immigrants here legally (and presumably some illegal immigrants) do pay taxes in the way of income, sales, property and other taxes. Immigration, whether legal or illegal, does supply an increase in the labor force, which is complimented by the rise in the productivity of resources.¹¹³ With that, it seems that immigration contributes to the United States GDP that equals approximately 0.2 percent.¹¹⁴ However, only the federal government “appears to enjoy a net fiscal surplus from immigration”.¹¹⁵ On the other hand, the federal government does not incur the additional expenses of illegal immigration to the same extent as state and local governments.¹¹⁶

CONCLUSION

If the U.S. is unable to do something about the continuing rise in the illegal immigrant population, crime will continue to rise exponentially, as will all associated federal, state, and local costs, and the births of anchor babies. So long as employers are not held accountable for the employment of illegal workers, labor standards will continue to fall and more Americans will be displaced, which would also raise the rate of unemployment and its associated costs.

The only good another amnesty would do is to create an environment beneficial to many other people who would not have otherwise considered crossing our borders illegally. They would do so knowing that an impending amnesty would bypass any lengthy bureaucratic legal process, in which they would then be able to reap the rewards that many other legal aliens before them actually waited for.

Although not all criminal activity by illegal immigrants is avoidable, but getting a better handle on reducing the number of illegal immigrants in the U.S. would definitely reduce the number of crimes. Reducing the number of crimes committed by illegal aliens could have quite possibly saved some of the lives of those victims listed above.

In order for the federal government to better assist state and local governments with budgetary concerns, they need to start curbing illegal immigration through tougher border security, holding employers accountable for their hiring practices, and deporting known illegal immigrants (or rather than another amnesty program a deliberate program of attrition). However, another problem arises in that the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is having problems of its own. ICE cannot currently keep abreast of handling illegal immigrant issues, such as deportation and/or detention, due to financial shortfalls. In a Washington Times article reprinted on the Center for Immigrations Studies website, Jerry Seper writes "ICE, hamstrung by long-standing budgetary constraints that have left its detention and removal program seriously undermanned and under funded, has 20,000 beds available at ICE-managed and -contracted detention centers nationwide - not enough to house the aliens in custody on a daily basis."¹¹⁷ ICE detention officials are consistently rejecting illegal immigrants whom Border Patrol agents apprehend due to lack of manpower and space. "Frustrated Border Patrol agents call the system "catch and release". "¹¹⁸

Aside from a shortage in manpower listed above, which the federal government needs to address, the following is an approach I feel could work to combat illegal immigration.

Firstly, the federal government needs to start taking complete action in penalizing any employer who carelessly or knowingly hires an illegal immigrant. These employers should have to utilize government services that would verify the status of immigrants. It would have to be

required of the federal government to cooperate with any companies needing the services of immigrant verification. To the same extent, the same should hold true for landlords who knowingly house illegal immigrants.

Secondly, U.S. law would require that anyone from outside the United States seeking work through the temporary worker program would have to have a temporary worker visa issued by the U.S. Department of State. Without this visa the employment agencies would not be permitted to bring these people into the U.S. for temporary work assignments.

Thirdly, the temporary worker visa should only be issued in the country of origin of the person seeking work in the United States and nowhere else. This means that a temporary worker already in the U.S. with an expired temporary worker visa would have to return back to their home country to be issued a new temporary worker visa should they continue to seek employment in the United States. Remaining in the United States with an expired worker visa, that immigrant would be ineligible to be hired through federally licensed employment agencies, and employers would already be aware of the repercussions for illegal immigrant hire outside the licensed employment agencies.

Finally, whenever a U.S. company would need workers for temporary jobs such as agriculture or construction, the company would seek the assistance of a federally licensed employment agency to provide legal immigrant workers. That agency would arrange with the U.S. Department of State on the issuance of temporary worker visas for the number of workers requested.

The approach I have laid out above, it is merely a reactive suggestion. There are other courses of action that could work alone or in conjunction with my suggestion, such as the United States federal government taking a much more proactive approach. Maybe if the federal

government were to work more closely with the countries of origin of many of the illegal immigrants and assist in the development of those countries economies, the would-be illegal immigrants might find prosperity at home rather than in the United States. All told, many Americans would agree that illegal immigration is of major concern and therefore more action needs to be taken by local, state, and federal governments to fight it.

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